

General Information

Mission

Inspired by Catholic intellectual tradition, the University of St. Thomas educates students to be morally responsible leaders who think critically, act wisely, and work skillfully to advance the common good.

Convictions

As a community we are committed to:

1. Pursuit of Truth
We value intellectual inquiry as a life-long habit, the unfettered and impartial pursuit of truth in all its forms, the integration of knowledge across disciplines, and the imaginative and creative exploration of new ideas.
2. Academic Excellence
We create a culture among faculty, students and staff that recognizes the power of ideas and rewards rigorous thinking.
3. Faith and Reason
We actively engage Catholic intellectual tradition, which values the fundamental compatibility of faith and reason and fosters meaningful dialogue directed toward the flourishing of human culture.
4. Dignity
We respect the dignity of each person and value the unique contributions that each brings to the greater mosaic of the university community.
5. Diversity
We strive to create a vibrant diverse community in which, together, we work for a more just and inclusive society.
6. Personal Attention
We foster a caring culture that supports the well-being of each member.
7. Gratitude
We celebrate the achievements of all members of our community in goals attained and obstacles overcome, and in all things give praise to God.

Undergraduate Vision Statement

The university's mission and convictions and our objectives for undergraduate education provide the framework for the Undergraduate Vision Statement.

The strengths of the undergraduate program are embodied in four commitments:

1. A commitment to the Catholic identity that informs its liberal and professional education;
2. A commitment to a common liberal arts foundation that serves as the core of the education in which all St. Thomas undergraduates participate;
3. A commitment to the integration of the liberal arts and career preparation, fostering in students a dedication to work for the common good;
4. A commitment to the underlying unity of the human person with an emphasis on the spiritual, intellectual, ethical and social development of all students.

These commitments are manifested in the following features of the undergraduate program:

- a. A strong core curriculum for all students that exposes them to enduring, transcultural human truths, provides for multicultural exploration, and encourages integration that crosses disciplinary boundaries;

- b. A comprehensive and strong set of major and minor fields that meet the increasing demands of career competency and interdisciplinary development, while maintaining a common liberal arts core curriculum;
- c. An energetic, expert and diverse faculty who show their concern for the total development of students through extensive time and effort spent with them, and through their eagerness to involve students in the work of their fields through joint research projects, practicums, and service to the community;
- d. A faculty who model for students a love of learning through continual efforts to enhance teaching effectiveness, ongoing professional engagement, and collaboration with their colleagues in teaching, research and other program initiatives;
- e. A faculty who demonstrate a commitment to service through their willingness to serve as role models for students, demonstrating that compassion for others and lifelong dedication to service are ordinary aspects of being an educated, responsible citizen;
- f. A strong support and professional staff throughout the university committed to fostering the social, spiritual, and intellectual development of students through co-curricular activities, with a special focus on cultivating leadership ability.

As it looks to the future, the undergraduate program seeks to maintain these distinctive manifestations of its key commitments and to:

- a. Build on the strengths of our Catholic identity by promoting dialogue between faith and reason and by enabling students to acquire an organic vision of reality which integrates faith and secular learning;
- b. Increase efforts to cross departmental and disciplinary boundaries in order to enhance further the integration of liberal arts and professional education, faith and practice, principles and techniques, and education and service;
- c. Emphasize more the preparation of students for a life of service in an increasingly diverse world through the development of integrated service learning opportunities for students;
- d. Stress the importance of global awareness by encouraging study abroad opportunities, increasing participation in faculty and student exchanges, and increasing involvement with the university's urban community;
- e. Increase efforts to diversify the student body, the faculty, the staff, and the curriculum to reflect the diversity of the broader society;
- f. Emphasize the integration of technology in teaching, and the development of computer literacy for all students;
- g. Continue our strong emphasis on preparing students to think analytically, write and speak clearly, reason quantitatively, participate in a democratic society, contribute to the health of their communities and the environment, and know the natural world and their own and other cultures;
- h. Continue to foster in our students an appreciation for the dignity of all human persons, created in the image of a just and loving God.

History

The University of St. Thomas was founded in 1885 by Archbishop John Ireland, less than a year after he was installed as St. Paul's third bishop. What began as the St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary – with 62 students and a faculty of five – has grown to be Minnesota's largest independent university with four campuses and more than 11,000 students.

Built near a river bluff on farmland that was still considered “far removed from town” in the late 1800s, the university's main campus is nestled today in a residential area midway between the downtowns of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

In its first decade, St. Thomas was a high school, college and seminary; students enrolled in either the preparatory, classical or theological departments. In 1894 the theological department moved to an adjacent campus where it became The Saint Paul Seminary. The preparatory and classical departments, meanwhile, remained on the original campus and became the College of St. Thomas.

The classical department gradually grew to a four-year college curriculum. The first baccalaureate degrees were conferred in 1910 and St. Thomas was officially accredited in 1916. The preparatory department became the St. Thomas Military Academy, a high school that moved to a suburban campus in 1965.

After 92 years of all-male enrollment, St. Thomas became coeducational in 1977. Today, 50 percent of the undergraduates and 52 percent of the graduate students are women.

Coeducation, coupled with new graduate programs as well as new campuses, contributed to St. Thomas' growth over the past two decades. Enrollment increased from under 2,500 students in 1970 to 10,641 today. The undergraduate program currently enrolls approximately 5,600 students.

Long-standing graduate programs in business, education, professional psychology and social work offer degrees at the master's, specialist, and doctoral levels.

St. Thomas' original “classical” and “theological” departments came together once again in 1987 through an affiliation between the seminary and university. Together they created the School of Divinity which offers graduate degrees in pastoral studies, divinity and theology. St. Thomas is home to the undergraduate St. John Vianney Seminary.

In 1990, recognizing the many changes and the addition of graduate programs to the institution, the name of the College of St. Thomas was changed to the University of St. Thomas.

Locations

The university's main, 78-acre campus anchors the west-end of St. Paul's historic Summit Avenue.

In 1992 the university began a permanent campus in downtown Minneapolis, which is now the home of most of the graduate programs in the Opus College of Business, the Graduate School of Professional Psychology, the School of Education, and the School of Law.

The university offers a wide range of programs at its Owatonna-based Gainey Conference Center, established in 1982, and at a number of satellite locations, including the Mall of America.

The Bernardi Residence in Rome, which opened in

2000, is a remodeled residential estate on the banks of the Tiber River. Serving as a home to students on the university's Center for Catholic Studies Rome Program and the Fall Semester in Rome Program, it is also available for conferences, study tours and housing for faculty, students, and visitors to Rome.

Organization of the University

Undergraduate

College of Arts and Sciences

The College of Arts and Sciences includes undergraduate departments in the arts, humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences, plus a number of interdisciplinary programs.

Opus College of Business

The Opus College of Business has six departments offering undergraduate curricula in an interdisciplinary setting. It is home to a variety of centers offering credit and noncredit seminars and continuing-education programs.

School of Education

The School of Education offers undergraduate courses and curricula for elementary and secondary teacher licensures.

School of Engineering

The School of Engineering offers graduate and undergraduate engineering degrees. Located on the St. Paul campus, programs in the college are committed to leadership in engineering and industry, in innovation, and in development of the whole person. They are built upon a firm foundation of values and global awareness, and embedded in the context of the liberal arts. The college offers bachelor of science degrees in mechanical engineering (B.S.M.E.) and electrical engineering (B.S.E.E.). The B.S.M.E. degree is Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET accredited.

School of Social Work

The School of Social Work offers undergraduate courses and curricula for social work and chemical dependency counseling.

Graduate

College of Arts and Sciences

Master's-level programs are offered in Art History, Catholic Studies, English, and Music Education.

Opus College of Business

The Opus College of Business offers nine degree programs at the graduate level. It is home to a variety of centers offering credit and noncredit seminars and continuing-education programs.

St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity

The St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity offers master's- and doctoral-level degrees oriented to theological study and the practice of ministry. The school also offers a two-year pre-theology program for priesthood candidates who require additional preparation.

College of Applied Professional Studies

Graduate study leading to certificates, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees is offered. Master's- and doctoral-level degrees are offered in counseling psychology. A certificate in family psychology also is offered.

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School of Engineering

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School of Law

The School of Law was reopened in 1999 after a 66-year hiatus. The first class of 120 students was accepted in fall 2001. Full accreditation by the American Bar Association was granted in 2006.

School of Social Work

The Master of Social Work, offered as a joint degree program with the College of St. Catherine, is designed to provide advanced professional study in social work. Dual-degree programs are offered in cooperation with Luther Seminary, the Department of Theology at the College of St. Catherine, and the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity.

Vital Statistics

The University of St. Thomas is a private, coeducational, Catholic, liberal arts university.

The university offers five bachelor's degrees, 105 major fields of study, and 61 minor fields of study. The university offers 42 graduate degree programs: 36 master's, two education specialist, one *juris doctor*, and three doctorates. It also offers five graduate-level joint- or dual-degree programs.

The university awards the B.A. in 89 fields; B.M. in 3 fields; B.S. in eleven fields; B.S.E.E.; B.S.M.E.; Ed.S. in two fields; Ed.D. in two fields; J.D.; M.A. in 20 fields; M.B.A. in four fields; M.B.C.; M.Div.; M.M.S.E.; M.S. in seven fields; M.S.S.; M.S.W.; and Psy.D.

Enrollment in the undergraduate program for fall semester 2007 was 6,076. Graduate-level enrollment figures at the university were: College of Arts and Sciences, 188; Opus College of Business, 1,760; St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity, 120; School of Education, 1,237; School of Law, 474; School of Social Work, 333; Graduate School of Professional Psychology, 192; Graduate Programs in Software Engineering, 382; Programs in Engineering, 222.

The total undergraduate and graduate enrollment for fall semester 2007 was 10,984.

There are 395 full-time faculty, 381 part-time faculty, and a support staff of 1,078.

Accreditation and Memberships

The University of St. Thomas is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (800-621-7440), the Association of Theological Schools (412-788-6505), and is an affiliate member of the Teacher Education Accreditation Council.

All University of St. Thomas education licensure programs are approved by the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning (651-296-2046).

Programs in chemistry are approved by the American Chemical Society (800-227-5558); the master's programs in engineering are accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (410-347-7700); the B.S.M.E. is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET; the School of Law is accredited by the American Bar Association (202-662-1000); the music programs are approved by the National Association of Schools of Music (703-437-0700); the doctoral program in Professional Psychology is accredited by the American Psychological Association (800-374-2721); the Social Work program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (703-683-8080).

The university is a member of the:

- American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
- American Council on Education
- Associated Colleges of the Twin Cities
- Association of American Colleges and Universities
- Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
- Council on Undergraduate Research
- Institute of International Education
- International Federation of Catholic Universities
- Minnesota Private College Council
- National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
- National Catholic Educational Association

The university is an associate member of the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business

Assessment of Programs

The program to assess student learning is an integral part of the university's commitment to excellent teaching and effective learning. The assessment effort is sustained by the faculty and is fully supported by the administration. Information is systematically collected and examined both to document and improve student learning. The assessment program itself is routinely updated, and the information gained from the assessment process becomes part of on-going curricular development.

The University Assessment Committee, which oversees the student outcomes assessment programs of the university, consists of the chief assessment officer for each school or college and the director of Institutional Research. The committee is chaired by the associate vice president for academic affairs.

Currently, all curricula for major concentrations and the undergraduate core curriculum are routinely assessed. Thus, students are asked from time to time to participate in testing, surveys, interviews, or other methods of collecting data for assessment purposes.

